

48. *GLAUCIDIUM SJOESTEDTI*.

Glaucidium sjöstedti Reichen. Orn. MB. 1893, p. 65 ;
Sjöst. K. Sv. Vet.-Akad. Handl. 27. p. 42, Taf. ii. (1895) ;
Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 299 (1899).

♂ ad. et juv. Efulen, Jan. 17-24, 1902. "Fôbelebele."

♂ ad. „ Feb. 1, 1902. "Akuñ."

♂ ad. „ March 17, 1902.

Both young and old individuals of this striking species are in the collection. A sign of immaturity appears in the more or less concealed ochreous patches on the scapulars, the older birds being comparatively uniform. The cross-bars on the breast are also narrower and fewer in number. The nestling resembles the adults, but is duller chestnut on the back.

This species is nearly allied to *G. castanopterum*, but is cinnamon-buff underneath with rufous cross-bars, the pectoral region being crossed by bars of a different colour to those on the head and neck. In *G. castanopterum* they are all of the same colour on the head, neck, and upper breast.

My position, therefore, for this species in the 'Hand-list' is wrong. The female is apparently yet unknown, as all Mr. Bates's examples are males.

[To be continued.]

VIII.—*On some rare or unfigured Eggs of Palaearctic Birds.*

By H. E. DRESSER, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., &c.

(Plate III.)

IN continuation of former papers on the same subject I beg leave to offer to the Members of the B.O.U. some further notes on, and illustrations of, rare or unfigured eggs of Birds of the Palaearctic Region*.

(1) *HODGSONIUS PHENICUROIDES*. Hodgson's Shortwing.
(Pl. III. fig. 2.)

Hodgsonius phenicuroides Dresser, Man. Pal. B. p. 59.

Mr. Davidson appears to have been the first to obtain

* For my previous papers, see 'Ibis,' 1901, p. 445 ; 1902, p. 177 ; and 1903, pp. 88, 404.

authentic eggs of this bird, and he has published some excellent notes on its breeding-habits (Ibis, 1898, pp. 11, 12). The egg figured is one out of a full clutch of three taken by that gentleman at Sonamurg, Kashmir, on the 15th of June, 1896. The nests, he says, were placed in low bushes, generally about a foot or eighteen inches from the ground, and not in the least concealed. They were thick deep cups, made of rough grass, lined with a few dead leaves, some fine grass, grass-roots, and a few feathers, and were most untidy structures; the full clutches of eggs were three in number and the eggs themselves varied somewhat in size, but averaged about 0.89 by 0.63 inch.

(2) *CARPODACUS SEVERTZOWI*. Himalayan Rose-finch.
(Pl. III. figs. 1, 3.)

Carpodacus severtzowi Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 319.

This Rose-finch was found by Major W. Corbett breeding near a village called Shushul, about six miles from the Pangong Lake in Ladak, and close to the frontier of Tibet, at an elevation of 14,000 feet. Two nests were taken, containing three and two fresh eggs respectively, on the 31st of July and the 4th of August, 1902. These nests, Major Corbett informs me, "were placed in the forks of thin willow trees about twenty feet from the ground, while a third nest was placed in a gorse bush about three feet from the ground. The nest of this Finch is constructed of sticks, grass, and wool, lined with hair; that found in the gorse bush was rather more compact than the two in the willows, being two and a half inches in diameter of cup and two inches deep. I shot the hen bird off the first nest which I found on the 31st of July, but did not secure the male. However, I discovered another nest in the same patch of willows on which the hen was sitting. I did not shoot her, but obtained the male close by. On visiting this nest again on the 4th of August the female was still sitting, but I did not see any male bird on this occasion. This Rose-finch did not appear to be common in Ladak, as I did not observe it in any other place."

Major Corbett brought me the two birds, which I compared with Dr. Sharpe's *Carpodacus severtzovi*, and with *Carpodacus rubicilla* from the Caucasus. I found them intermediate between these two geographical forms, the male having the under parts as in *C. rubicilla*, but the upper parts paler and less tinged with red, though much darker than in *C. severtzovi*.

The eggs in the two clutches vary very little, so I have figured one egg out of each clutch.

(3) *ERYTHROSPIZA SANGUINEA*. Crimson-winged Bullfinch. (Pl. III. fig. 5.)

Erythrospiza sanguinea Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 328.

So far as I can ascertain, the example here figured is the only authentic egg of this species known to exist in any collection. It was taken by Mr. J. H. Cochrane, who accompanied Canon Tristram on his journey to the Holy Land, at the Cedars on Mount Lebanon, on the 24th of May, 1864, and was handed over to me by Mr. Cochrane when he gave up collecting eggs. The female bird was obtained at the nest, and passed into Canon Tristram's collection. The nest was placed in a tree, and contained only the one egg. Canon Tristram says that it was not unlike that of a Greenfinch, but does not give any further description.

(4) *BUCANETES OBSOLETUS*. Persian Desert - Bullfinch. (Pl. III. figs. 4, 6.)

Bucanetes obsoletus Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 330.

An egg of this species has been figured by Mr. Nehrkorn (Katalog Eiersamml. pl. iv. fig. 49), but it was a very pale specimen, and as the eggs vary from pure white and bluish white to pale blue I have thought it advisable to figure two, to shew the different phases. Both these eggs were taken by Mr. N. Zarudny, at Nachduin in Transcaspia, on the 3rd of June, 1892. One egg in my collection, also taken by Mr. Zarudny, at Dort Kuin in Turkestan, on the 11th of May, 1886, is pure white. The nests of this Bullfinch were found to be placed in bushes or on a

tree, and were constructed of twigs and fine fibres, lined with hair, fine vegetable fibres, cotton, or wool. The number of eggs in each clutch varied from four to six.

(5) *EMBERIZA LUTEOLA*. Red-headed Bunting. (Pl. III. figs. 7, 8, 9.)

Emberiza luteola Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 347.

The eggs of this Bunting have been known for some time, but do not appear to have been figured. The bird breeds in Central Asia, and of the three eggs figured one was taken at Durjangjar in Transcaspia on the 11th of May, 1892, and two at Askabad on the 14th of May. The nest of this Bunting is placed in a low bush or on the ground, and is constructed of dried grass, plant-stems, or shreds of bark, and lined with hair, the number of eggs varying from three to four.

(6) *EMBERIZA SPODOCEPHALA*. Black-faced Bunting. (Pl. III. figs. 10, 12.)

Emberiza spodocephala Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 350.

The eggs of this Bunting were first described by von Middendorff (Sib. Reise, Vögel, p. 143, Taf. xiii. fig. 8), but the illustration of them is very unsatisfactory, so that I have thought it advisable to figure two specimens, which were taken by Dr. Dybowski at Darasun in Dauria. According to von Middendorff, fresh eggs of this bird were taken on the 14th of June. The nest is placed in a low bush, or sometimes on the ground, and is constructed of grass-bents and plant-stems, lined with hair. The number of eggs in a clutch varies from four to six, and a series in my collection average in size 0·72 by 0·56 inch.

(7) *EMBERIZA CINEREA*. Cinereous Bunting. (Pl. III. fig. 11.)

Emberiza cinerea Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 352.

So far as I can ascertain, only one well-authenticated nest and eggs of this bird have been obtained up to the present time. These were taken by one of Dr. Th. Krüper's collectors at Burnabat, near Smyrna, on the 10th of May, 1889. I received from Dr. Krüper the egg now figured, and one other,

which is now in the collection of Professor Newton at Cambridge. The nest and the remaining eggs are in the Museum at Athens.

(8) *EMBERIZA STEWARTI*. White-capped Bunting. (Pl. III. fig. 14.)

Emberiza stewarti Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 367.

This Bunting breeds in Afghanistan, Kashmir, and on the hills about Murree, but I cannot ascertain that the eggs have ever been figured. Major Wardlaw Ramsay found the bird breeding in Afghanistan towards the end of April, and in May and June. The nests were placed under roots on sloping banks or hill-sides, and were composed entirely of dried grass; the eggs were generally four in number, but occasionally five. I have figured one egg out of a clutch of two taken by Major Wardlaw Ramsay in Afghanistan on the 28th of May, 1879, which differ but little from each other. In size the eggs of this Bunting average about 0.78 by 0.59 inch.

(9) *EMBERIZA STRACHEYI*. Eastern Meadow-Bunting. (Pl. III. figs. 13, 15.)

Emberiza stracheyi Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 368.

Although this Eastern representative of the European Meadow-Bunting (*E. cia*) breeds commonly in the Himalayas, at altitudes of from 4000 to 9000 feet, and its nesting-habits, nest, and eggs were well described by Mr. Oates ('Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds,' ii. pp. 168-170), the eggs have not yet been figured; and as they differ slightly from those of *E. cia* I have thought it advisable to figure two which were taken by Mr. J. Davidson at Gund, Kashmir, on the 29th of May, 1876. The nest of this Bunting is said to be always placed on the ground, and is externally constructed of grass-stems and lined with finer stems and a few hairs or moss-roots, the number of eggs varying from three to five.

(10) *MUSCICAPULA SUPERCILIARIS*. White-breasted Blue Flycatcher.

Muscicapula superciliaris Sharpe, Cat. B. iv. p. 203.



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Major Corbett has sent me the following notes, together with specimens of the birds, which, although the Blue Flycatcher has not yet been recorded as a Palearctic species, may be included in the present article:—"I found a nest containing three eggs of the Blue Flycatcher at Ranikhot, Kumaon, Western Himalayas, at an elevation of from 6000 to 7000 feet, on the 31st of May. The nest was cup-shaped, constructed of rootlets and grass, and placed on a ledge in a steep bank, and the eggs were slightly incubated."

The Major sent me eggs of this Flycatcher along with the parent bird. The eggs resemble those of *Muscicapa parva* in coloration, but are very small, scarcely larger than those of the Golden-crested Wren.

Major Corbett also sends me the following notes:—

(11) *SERINUS PUSILLUS*. Red-fronted Finch.

Serinus pusillus Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 282.

"I first saw these birds in Kashmir on the 25th of June, but subsequently in Ladak. They were mostly in small flocks, and I could not succeed in finding a nest."

(12) *LEUCOSTICTE BRANDTI*. Brandt's Ground-Linnet.

Leucosticte brandti Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 303.

"At the end of July and in August these birds were common at Chang Chenmo at from 12,000 to 15,000 feet elevation, frequenting grassy places near streams; they were generally in small flocks, but I saw some in pairs. In a female which I shot the ovary was small, the crop was full of small green seeds. This was one of the very few species of birds that I observed in Chang Chenmo."

EXPLANATION OF PLATE III.

Eggs of the following species:—

- Fig. 1. *Carpodacus severtzovi*, p. 107.
 „ 2. *Hodgsonius phanicuroides*, p. 106.
 „ 3. *Carpodacus severtzovi*, p. 107.
 „ 4. *Bucanetes obsoletus*, p. 108.
 „ 5. *Erythrospiza sanguinea*, p. 108.
 „ 6. *Bucanetes obsoletus*, p. 108.

- Fig. 7-9. *Emberiza luteola*, p. 109.
 „ 10. — *spodocephala*, p. 109.
 „ 11. — *cinerea*, p. 109.
 „ 12. — *spodocephala*, p. 109.
 „ 13. — *stracheyi*, p. 110.
 „ 14. — *stewarti*, p. 110.
 „ 15. — *stracheyi*, p. 110.

IX.—*Studies in Bird-migration. II. The Results of Observations made at the Kentish Knock Lightship in the Autumn of 1903.* By WILLIAM EAGLE CLARKE, F.R.S.E., F.L.S.

(Plate IV.)

AMONG the most interesting of the varied movements of birds observed in the British Isles are those remarkable intermigrations which take place in spring and autumn between the south-eastern coast of England and the opposite shores of the Continent, and mainly come under notice at the numerous lightships stationed between the mouth of the Humber and the Straits of Dover.

If not actually a discovery resulting from the investigations of the Migration Committee appointed by the British Association, it is assuredly due to the labours of that body, and especially those of the late Mr. John Cordeaux, its Secretary, that attention was first prominently drawn to these important flights across the southern waters of the North Sea. To those investigations we owe most of our present knowledge regarding such movements.

During the preparation of the "Digest of the Observations on the Migrations of Birds made at Lighthouses and Lightships, 1880-1887," it became evident to me that much remained to be learned concerning these movements and the various conditions under which they were performed, and I conceived the idea of undertaking some researches regarding them. To accomplish this, however, it was essential that I should spend some weeks on one of the lightships—a course which demanded some consideration, since life on one of these floating observatories presents discomforts which are peculiarly its own. Encouraged, however, by the